

Frequently Asked Questions

Notice of Proposed Determination Regarding General Service Incandescent Lamps

1. Why is DOE issuing this Notice of Proposed Determination (NOPD)?

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) directs DOE to determine whether standards in effect for general service incandescent lamps (GSILs) should be amended. Until 2017, DOE was prohibited from making this determination due to an appropriations rider. With the removal of the appropriations rider, DOE is no longer restricted from undertaking the analysis required to make this determination. DOE initiated this process on August 15, 2017, by publishing a [notice of data availability](#) (NODA) and request for information seeking data for GSILs and other incandescent lamps. DOE is proposing this determination in response to the comments received on its 2017 NODA.

2. What determination is DOE proposing to make?

In this NOPD, DOE proposes to determine that energy conservation standards for GSILs do not need to be amended because more stringent standards are not economically justified. DOE has tentatively reached this determination following an analysis of the technological feasibility and economic justification of amended standards for GSILs, and a consideration of whether more stringent standards would result in significant energy savings.

3. What are General Service Incandescent Lamps?

GSILs are standard incandescent or halogen type lamps (i.e., light bulbs) that are intended for general service applications, have a medium screw base, have a lumen range of not less than 310 lumens and not more than 2,600 lumens, and are capable of being operated at a voltage range at least partially within 110 and 130 volts. DOE's recent General Service Lamp Definition final rule maintained this definition, which is also the statutory definition.

4. Why is DOE proposing to determine not to amend standards for GSILs?

DOE may only issue such standards as are technologically feasible, economically justified, and that would save a significant amount of energy. The analysis that DOE conducted for this determination concludes that amended standards for GSILs would significantly increase the price of GSILs such that consumers would be unable to recover the upfront cost. As a result, amended standards are not cost-effective and would therefore not be economically justified.

5. How does DOE decide whether more stringent standards are economically justified?

EPCA instructs DOE to evaluate seven factors when considering whether amended standards would be economically justified, including the economic impact on consumers and the lifetime operating cost savings. In this case, more stringent standards would have a negative economic impact on consumers because the lifetime operating costs are too high to offset the higher price of more efficient GSILs.

6. What will be the effect of this determination?

If finalized as proposed, the determination would not affect the availability of any lamp types for U.S. consumers. American households will still have the ability to choose from a wide variety of

lamp types, including GSILs, light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), based on their unique lighting needs and preferences.

7. What is DOE's statutory authority for this action?

DOE is directed to make a determination whether standards in effect for GSILs need to be amended pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6295(i)(6)(A).

8. 'How does an interested party comment on this notice and when are comments due?

The public has 60 days after the NOPR is published in the Federal Register to submit comments. Comments should be submitted via www.regulations.gov or sent to GSIL2019STD0022@ee.doe.gov. DOE will also hold a public meeting on Tuesday, October 15.

9. I have questions about this proposal. Whom should I contact?

For further information, contact Lucy DeButts (ApplianceStandardsQuestions@ee.doe.gov) and Celia Sher (Celia.Sher@hq.doe.gov). DOE staff are available to meet with interested stakeholders per the Department's guidelines issued in 2009 on *ex parte* meetings ([74 FR 52795](#)).